



401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 **Bloomington IN 47404** 



# **GET INVOLVED ... VOLUNTEER!**

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department volunteers provide valuable services to the community by assisting in many events and programs in a variety of ways. Volunteers can participate on a regular basis or on occasion as desired. There are many opportunities to choose from and an assortment of times and days available.

#### Volunteer opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Adult sports
- Class instructors
- Clerical services
- Community events
- · Cultural arts
- Environmental efforts
- Farmers' Market
- Inclusion programs
- Park projects
- Youth sports

• Youth programs

- Research/surveys
- Senior citizen programs
- Trail maintenance

If you would like to be a volunteer with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department contact Kim Ecenbarger at 812-349-3739 or ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov.

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department • Volunteer Opportunities 401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 • Bloomington IN 47404

# Make friends • Earn service learning credits Gain experience • Have fun

# EVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of their shifts.

# **Community Gardening**

### Schedule a day, August-October

Grow closer to local food! Community Gardening grows both plants and community Since 1984, the Parks and Recreation Department has offered community gardening opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. A favorite venue of volunteer groups, the gardens benefit from a number of service projects throughout the year.

Volunteers assist the staff in maintaining paths, turning compost, weeding, and harvesting as well as creating and maintaining

ornamental, wildlife, and demonstration plantings. Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift. Program Time: Willie Streeter or Butler Park Community Gardens Locations:

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5–25

### **Volunteer to Maintain** our Natural Spaces

Duties

### Schedule a Day, August-November

Help maintain and restore some of Bloomington's most scenic natural areas. Many group volunteer projects are available throughout the Bloomington community. Help is needed in the parks listed below.

Staff will work with your group or organization to formulate a

work plan. Duties may include applying wood chips or gravel to paths, removing invasive plants, trimming obstructive

vegetation, or re-routing trails.

**Program Time:** Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift. Leonard Springs Nature Park, Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,

Wapehani Mountain Bike Park, RCA Community Park, Winslow Woods Park, and Bryan Park.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5–25

#### Junk in the Trunk

# Saturday, August 22

Junk

Trunk

The Junk in the Trunk community rummage sale is recycling and treasure hunting all at the same time! There is plenty of room outside the Frank Southern Ice Arena for many different vendors to set up and sell unwanted furniture, books, clothing, toys, household goods, and more.

**Duties:** Be where the treasures are. Volunteers assist staff in setup and running the event. There is

also be time to do your own treasure hunting. Shift #1, 6:30-10 a.m./Shift #2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Program Time:** Frank Southern Ice Arena, 2100 S. Henderson St.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 3–4 per shift

#### Salsa Contest

# Saturday, August 29

Summer's sun is still blazing, and we're about to kick up the heat with Bloomington's 27th annual salsa contest. Entries for the city's best homemade salsa are evaluated by a panel of expert judges. Patrons take part in the food showdown of the year, and revel in the abundance of locally grown ingredients and the culinary craftsmanship of the salsa creations.

Take part in the hottest Parks and Recreation event. Salsa Contest volunteers dish out samples and keep

chips plentiful

**Program Time:** 8:15 a.m.-1 p.m. Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 vrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 6-8

# **Bryan Park Creek Maintenance Days**

### Wednesdays, September 2, October 7

Bloomington Parks and Recreation has earned Community Wildlife Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation. The Bryan Park Creek naturalized area played a key role in certification and requires periodic maintenance to control invasive plants and ensure native plant success.

Volunteers assist with monthly upkeep of this natural area along beautiful Bryan Park Creek. Help maintain native plants by **Duties:** 

cutting back overgrown brush, removing invasive plants, and collecting native plant seeds.

Bryan Park, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—Woodlawn Shelter Location: Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied

by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 5–30

**Program Time:** 

# Friday, September 4

Come out and PLAY! Bloomington has once again been named a Playful City USA by KaBOOM!, and we intend to celebrate! We'll have games, a bounce house, and playful activities for kids of all ages. The evening ends with the showing of the family-friendly movie "Hairspray" on the big screen!

Recall your childhood playing in the park. Assist with various **Duties:** outdoor activities that promote healthy, active lifestyles.

5:30-8:30 p.m. **Program Time:** 

Location: Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St. 16 yrs. and up

Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteers: 2

### Ferguson Dog Park **Maintenance Days**

Wednesdays, September 9, October 14

playful

usá'

city

Bloomington Parks and Recreation opened Ferguson Dog Park, a park specifically for dogs and their owners, in fall 2012. Our goal is to offer a safe and environmentally clean green space at the park. Periodic maintenance and upkeep is needed to ensure a sustainable park for the future.

**Duties:** 

Several landscaped areas enhance the aesthetics of the dog park and help address potential environmental hazards. Volunteers learn more about the proactive work being done by our natural resources management staff and help maintain the native

**Program Time:** Ferguson Dog Park, 4300 N. Stone Mill Rd. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied

by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 5–30

### Leonard Springs Nature Days



Tuesday, September 15, Tuesday, September 29, Tuesday, October 13, Tuesday, October 20, Tuesday, October 27 Tuesday, November 10 (rain date)

Volunteer to teach area sixth-grade students about our awesome natural heritage through multiple stations including karst, creeks, wetlands, and forests.

If you have an interest in the outdoors and enjoy working

with children, sign up for our Leonard Springs Nature Days. Station facilitators and group leaders are needed. Online training sessions are available for review.

Training: Program Time: 9:15 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Leonard Springs Nature Park, 4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.

Age of Volunteers: Number of Volunteers: 18 per day

#### Family Field Day and Picnic Sunday, September 20

Families are invited to relax and enjoy fun, quality family time on Sunday afternoon. They can bring a picnic lunch to Bryan Park while we host a variety of sports and games everyone can play! Activities include hula hooping, jump roping, frisbee golf, basketball dribbling and shooting, beanbag toss relays ... and more!

Duties: Volunteers get your game on, bring your enthusiasm, and help run field day activities. Explain rules, replenish supplies, and engage families in healthy outdoor activities.

Program Time:

11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St.—Henderson Shelter Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 5

#### **Apple Tasting**

# Saturday, October 3

"Why do we need so many kinds of apples? Because there are so many folks." —Liberty Hyde Bailey

Apple Tasting returns to the Farmers' Market with the fruit of our area growers' labors. Find a perfectly meaty, soft-skinned apple for an afternoon snack or a just-right firm and crisp apple for your favorite crisps and pies. Apple Tasting will rock you to the core!

When you think of fall in Indiana, you have to think apples. Volunteers distribute samples of different locally grown apples.

**Program Time:** 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Location: Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St.

Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers: 10





#### Take a Kid Mountain Biking

Saturday, October 3 Take a Kid Mountain Biking encourages communities to join together and ride mountain

bikes with youth. Besides being good, healthy fun, mountain biking develops a connection between kids and the natural world around them. **Duties:** Kids maneuver through twisting singletrack, jump logs, and

leap flagstone obstacles in our ½-mile kid-size obstacle course. Volunteers serve as spotters by emphasizing safety, instructing

on technique, and cheering on their efforts. Program Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

RCA Park, 1400 RCA Park Dr. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 6-8

#### Fall Tree Planting Saturday, October 10

Ignite your environmental consciousness by planting trees. Bloomington was recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation in 1984 as Indiana's first Tree City USA. Bloomington has each year since 1984 successfully met all the criteria necessary to keep its Tree City USA designation.

Several trees in Miller-Showers Park succumbed to **Duties:** 

environmental conditions. Approximately 20 new trees will line the streets of Walnut and College providing a green Bloomington welcome. Volunteers learn proper tree planting techniques from our urban forestry staff then dig holes, place trees, and lay mulch.

**Program Time:** 9 a.m.-noon

Staging takes place at Miller-Showers Park, 1500 N. College Ave. Locations

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 40

### Healthy Halloween Party

Friday, October 23

The health and wellness witches are throwing a Healthy Halloween Party at the Banneker Community Center, and the entire family is invited! Come in costume and take part in the costume contest, plus have a howling good time playing Halloween games, enjoying spooky snacks, and trying on some sweet (or scary!) face painting!

Duties: Bring the healthy to Halloween. Volunteers

can come dressed in a costume and facilitate fantastically frightening activities for

children to enjoy. 5-8:30 p.m.

Program Time: Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 5

#### Trick or Treat Trail

#### Saturday, October 24

Hi, Ho, Hi, Ho, into the woods we'll go. The wooded trail comes to life with characters and stories, oh what a sight. Children put on their costumes and grab their bags, there is a lot of fun to be had

Volunteers step into the magical world of fairy tale and cartoon

land and bring a character to life. We'll provide the story line,

and volunteers provide the enthusiasm and creativity. Program Time: noon-5 p.m.

RCA Community Park, 1400 W. RCA Park Dr. Location 16 yrs. and up TITICK OR TREAT TRAIL

Age of Volunteers:

**Duties:** 

Number of Volunteers: 20–25

All costumes provided. Other:



### Saturday, October 24

Halloween ... on ice! Kids and adults skate to spooky tunes and skate through our haunted house on ice. Skate in costume for a chance to win prizes.

**Duties:** Looking for a unique, spooky, great time this Halloween, and a reason to dress in costume? Shift 2 volunteers will be a character in the haunted or happy house. Shift 1 volunteers transform the Frank Southern Ice Arena into a Halloween haven and bring the

theme of the haunted house to life. Shift #1, noon-4 p.m./Shift #2, 5-10 p.m. Program Time:

Location: Frank Southern Ice Arena, 2100 S. Henderson St.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 15–20

Other:

We'll contact prospective volunteers to coordinate volunteer role or character assignment.



#### Willie Streeter Community Gardens Sunday, October 25, Sunday, November 1

Gardeners and others with green thumbs are invited to clear the plots and put the gardens to bed for the winter months.

> Volunteers harvest produce left in the gardens and prepare it for donation to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank; remove hardware items from the garden, including tomato cages and stakes, and organize them for convenient storage; and pull remaining plants

from the plots and place them in the compost bins.

**Program Time:** 1–4 p.m. all days Locations:

**Duties:** 

Butler Park Community Gardens, 812 W. Ninth St. and Willie Streeter Community Gardens, 2120 S. Highland Ave.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 10–15 for Butler Park Community Gardens, 20-25 for Willie Streeter Community Gardens

#### Festival of Ghost Stories

Friday, October 30

An ink-black night with leering jack-o'-lanterns and crisp cider set the stage for an evening of live storytelling beneath the stars. A Halloween-time tradition for more than 33 years, the Festival of Ghost Stories features haunting tales of ghosts and horror that will tingle the spine. Those who dare bring their lawn chairs or blankets, and dress warmly to avoid the chill as seasoned storytellers spin their tales in the dark.

Whether you're decorating for the event or serving up hot apple **Duties:** cider, you're sure to have a chillingly great time.

**Program Time:** 6-9 p.m.

Location: Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St. Age of Volunteers:

18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 4–6

### Soup Tasting

# Saturday, November 7

Few things are more comforting than cold hands wrapped around a warm cup of soup. The weather may be cooling down, but the soup is heating up for the ninth annual Soup Tasting on Showers Plaza. Celebrate this cool weather harvest from field and farm as area chefs showcase their expertise with this versatile comfort food. Sampling is warmly encouraged.

Volunteers assist with setting up soup tasting area, **Duties:** overseeing the chef demonstrations, and distributing

samples of different soups. 8:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Program Time:** 

Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 10

# The Bloomington Pumpkin Launch

Saturday. November 7

Fall has arrived and pumpkins are flying in the skies over the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Teams have formed and built pumpkin launching devices and spectators are lining up to watch the fun! Launcher teams send pumpkins soaring through the air in competitions for both accuracy and distance. In addition to the pumpkin launching, there are activities for children, food vendors, live music, and the festive feel of fall! Launch into fall by assisting with event preparation, parking, **Duties:** 

registration, competition supervision, and children's area. Program Time: Shift #1, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m./Shift #2, noon-3:30 p.m. Monroe County Fairgrounds, 5700 W. Airport Rd. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 5 per shift

### Holiday Market

# Saturday, November 28

Don't miss the 13th annual Holiday Market! Shop for favorite locally grown farm products, and arts and fine crafts created by local artisans, all while listening to the music of the season. The TubaSantas fill the Market with holiday spirit, and St. Nick and his reindeer will visit too!

We're looking for volunteer elves to decorate, serve **Duties:** refreshments, and assist with teardown.

Program Time: Shift #1, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m./Shift #2, noon-4 p.m. Location: Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 6 per shift

Other:

Come dressed according to the weather. Don't forget your hats and gloves!

# ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation prior to program.

#### Twice weekly, Banneker Afterschool Program August 3-December 18

Help students excel in math and reading skills by volunteering to read with students and review basic school-age mathematics. Additionally, facilitate activities in art and science and engage children in active games that stimulate creativity and critical thinking. **Duties:** Whether you enjoy working with youth or have professional

aspirations to, this service opportunity gives you hands-on experience. Tutor one-on-one or in small groups twice weekly.

**Program Time:** 3:30–5 p.m.

Fairview Elementary School, 500 W. Eighth St Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 8–10 per day, Monday–Thursday Other: We ask that you commit to two days a week for the

entire semester.

# Sport Shorties Fall Ball

Saturdays, August 22-October 3

Tuesdays and

Thursdays,

During this six-week program, Sport Shorties athletes learn the basic skills of soccer, basketball, and tee ball in a fun and safe recreational atmosphere. **Duties:** Are you a sports fanatic? Do you like children at

the adorable ages of 3–6 yrs.? Here is your chance to help us develop our next Albert Pujols, Abby Wambach, or LeBron James.

**Program Time:** Coaches are assigned a one-hour shift between 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 10–14

Coaches Orientation—Thursday, August 20, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Other:

at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center.

# **Bloomington Youth Basketball** Instructional-Season I

September 1-24 This instructional program for players in grades K-6 teaches the BASKETBALL fundamentals of the game of basketball and how to apply learned skills in game situations. Tuesday and Thursday evening sessions

include instruction in passing, shooting, conditioning, rebounding and fundamentals of offense and defense. These sessions will be in station format and will provide skill progression from week to week.

Volunteers work with small groups of youth to break down the Duties: fundamentals of the game.

**Program Time:** 5:15-8:30 p.m.

Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 5

Other: Volunteers should be available both days for the entire season.

#### October 2015-June 2016/ Adopt-an-Acre Monthly visits/One-year commitment

Adopt-an-Acre is an all-volunteer program that gives the public the opportunity to actively address invasive plant issues in Bloomington and Monroe County. Griffy has thriving populations of bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, winter creeper, privet, and multiflora rose, all which are out-competing native plants. Parks and Recreation staff provide the necessary training in invasive plant identification and equip volunteers to proactively monitor and remove impeding plants within their adopted area.

Inspect and make progress in removing invasive plants in adopted **Duties:** area of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve a minimum of once a

month. Complete and submit monthly progress reports. Attend quarterly training workshops or review electronic training materials to adequately identify invasive plants and learn proper technique for removing. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year. Staff works with you or your group to

formulate a work plan.

Time line: Volunteers must submit an online application by September 30. An orientation takes place in mid-October. One-year

appointment starts in October.

**Program Time:** Inspections and progress visits can be completed at your leisure. Various parcels of land are available for adoption at Griffy Lake Location: Nature Preserve. We have plot sizes for individuals and for

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment

class determined by number of available plots.

#### **Bloomington Youth** Basketball-Season II

basketball.

# October 19-December 18

BASKETBALL The Bloomington Youth Basketball League focuses on basketball

fundamentals and the application of learned skills during game participation for players in grades K–6. All leagues are coed through grade 3; girls play in a girls-only league beginning in grade 4. Season includes weekly practices, and games on one night a week. The season concludes with a single-elimination tournament. Join us for the satisfaction of playing in a fun and positive setting where everyone learns the game of

We are looking for coaches who can commit to once- or twice-Duties:

weekly practices and one game per week or weekend. Time and day of practices are determined by grade level. Volunteer coaches will enjoy making a difference in the lives of kids and can help develop our next big IU basketball star. (We suggest two coaches

per team.)

Prospective coaches must sign up by Friday, October 9. Time line: Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, October 13.

Selected coaches must attend mandatory coaches training on

Wednesday, October 14, 6:30 p.m. or Thursday, October 15, 5:30 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center.

All selected coaches must complete an online coaching certification course from the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA). NYSCA certification must be completed by first practice. The certification fee for each coach is \$20. The

online training is available at nays.org. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training. For scholarship information, contact Jeigh Hockersmith at

812-349-3774 or hockersj@bloomington.in.gov Coaches plan and lead one or two one-hour practices per week and one, one-hour game per week or weekend.

Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd. Location: Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers:

Program Time:

Duties:

Time line:

Time line:

Returning coaches have first priority for placement. Volunteers Other: should agree to stay for the entire season. Also consider coaching

Season III!

# Trail Ambassadors

# October 2015-October 2016 Weekly trail monitoring/ One-year commitment

The Trail Ambassador program increases the overall awareness and safety of our trail system by using community-based strategies. Trail users and trail supporters unite to promote the benefits of a vibrant trail system.

> Trail Ambassadors become public stewards of our trail system. Through weekly visits, volunteers generate awareness of the local multi-purpose trail system, promote proper trail etiquette, share

the benefits of a vibrant trail system, and encourage overall positive use of public space.

B-Line Trail, Bloomington Rail Trail, Clear Creek Trail, and

Volunteers must submit an online application by October 23. An orientation takes place prior to the one-year appointment

beginning in November. Commit to five hours of trail visitation per month. **Program Time:** 

Jackson Creek Trail Age of Volunteers: 21 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Accepting up to 25 volunteers for pilot program

# Adopt-a-Trail

#### Monthly inspections/ One-vear commitment More than 30 trail miles in Bloomington's city parks need periodic inspections and maintenance to remain safe and usable. Volunteers have been valuable in establishing and maintaining our trails for many years. Parks and Recreation staff provide training

October 2015-October 2016

and equipment to volunteer groups of any size for monthly trail monitoring and annual trail maintenance. Inspect adopted trail at least once a month. Complete and Duties: submit reports on trail status. Provide maintenance as needed.

Do at least one work day per year. Staff works with your group or organization to formulate a work plan.

Volunteers must submit an online application by September 30. An orientation takes place in mid-October. One-year

appointment starts in October.
Trail inspections can be completed at your leisure. Schedule your Program Time: trail work day with the Adopt-a-Trail coordinator.

Location: Various trails are available for adoption.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment

class determined by number of available trails.